

May 21, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Amy Koziara and I am a Patient Access Liaison for a small pharmaceutical company focusing on ultra-rare diseases but moreover, I am a mom to three healthy children that have all their required vaccinations as of 2021. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because people should not be mandated or forced to get a "shot", that does not have the required data proving its efficacy and safety from Phase III clinical trials approved by the FDA. People that opt not to obtain the COVID-19 shot, should therefore not be discriminated against because they made an educated choice based on the limited data available.

My daughter is entering her junior year of college with a 4.0 GPA and plans on furthering her education by pursuing her master's degree. If she does not have the vaccine "shot", she may not be able to attend class. Is that fair? Her grades may suffer by having to only attend virtually and this is stifling a brilliant mind that has so much to contribute. There is absolutely zero long term safety data available to her for her to make an informed decision. How can she confidently be administered this "shot" knowing that she will be able to conceive children later in life when there is literally no clinical data available to prove that?

Regarding the logistically unrealistic, not to mention discriminatory mention of a vaccine passport, I am vehemently opposed to such a concept. If such a tactic is even being considered, what is next? Are we going to have to prove that we also have our other vaccinations? I would like people to then prove that they are truly citizens of the United States as well. I would like people to prove that they really graduated from college if they say they did. I would like people to prove how they are spending our tax dollars. The list is endless. This is crossing a line by delving into the personal lives of people. What if they cannot get the shot because of religious beliefs? What if they cannot get the shot because they are going through chemotherapy? What if they cannot get the shot because they are on immunosuppressants? Most likely, they do not want to disclose their reasons for why they cannot or will not get the shot as it is no one's business but their own and now they are going to be humiliated and shamed and not allowed to enjoy the very freedoms that every American is entitled to such as grocery shopping, attending events for business or pleasure, travel, etc. Again, the list is endless. This is beyond absurd.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248. Please consider the safety of all Americans by allowing them to make their own decisions about the COVID-19 shot and the very discriminatory precedent that would be set by approving a vaccine passport concept.

Sincerely-

Amy Koziara